

THE OLD STONE WALL

E-Newsletter of the NH Division of Historical Resources

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Historic cemeteries have tales to tell...are you listening?

Okay, we'll admit it. It's Halloween and perhaps doing a story on cemeteries is a bit obvious. But at the NHDHR, we're big fans of cemeteries and the variety of stories they tell.

The next time that you are out for a walk or drive, take some time to explore a historic New Hampshire cemetery and consider the following questions:

Where is the cemetery located? What does that say about the relationship

between the people who lived -- and who still live -- in the community and those who are buried there?

When was the cemetery established? Is it still actively being used? Where are the oldest plots? How has it expanded? Are there any indications that certain groups of people were buried in certain sections?

Who is buried there? Can you identify family names that are still in town? Do you see patterns of relatives who have been interred close together or even far apart? Is there anyone famous -- or infamous -- interred?



Images from NH cemeteries (clockwise from top): Lake View Cemetery gate, Wolfeboro; Forest Glade Cemetery, Somersworth; receiving tomb, Stark Village Cemetery; marble gravestone, Old North Cemetery, Concord; slate gravestone, Hopkinton Village Cemetery; detail from a gravestone at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Laconia.

What can you learn about the people being memorialized? Are there interesting stories on the gravestones? Do you notice religious affiliations, military service, memberships in fraternal organizations? What languages are used -- and what does that tell you about who is interred? Is there information that you couldn't find somewhere else, or that you couldn't find without undertaking complicated research?

What style are the gravestones and statuary? Simple, ornate? Are there images and ornamentation, or just words? What style of lettering is used? What are the gravestones made from? How do styles change over time?

What are the landscaping elements? What is the entry like? If there is a perimeter fence or wall, what is it made from? Are the roads and paths straight or curved? Is the terrain flat or rolling? Are there trees, shrubs, hedges or flowers?

What is at the cemetery besides gravestones? Are there mausoleums, receiving tombs, fountains, benches, chapels? Do they have names on them? If so, do nearby plots have the same names?

While cemeteries commemorate individuals who've come before us, they can also help us learn more about our communities and how they've changed over time. Stop by a cemetery on a beautiful fall day and learn the stories it has to tell.

NHDHR goes on a mission with the Air Force



(left-right) NHDHR's Megan Rupnik, Nadine Miller, Mark Doperalski and Dave Trubey examine the wing of a P-51 that crashed at New Boston Air Force Station soon after World War II.

Did you know that there's an active Air Force station just west of Manchester? The area that is now **New Boston Air Force Station** served as a maneuver practice area in World War II for bombers and fighter planes taking off from Grenier Army Air Field, which later became Manchester-Boston Regional Airport. By the 1960s, New Boston was home to a satellite-tracking station.

The Air Force is now getting ready to decommission a satellite tracking antenna that was key to US efforts during the Cold War. Recognizing that the antenna and the entire station are historically significant, Command is working with the NHDHR to consider the effects of the decommissioning on the Station's history under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, both now and going forward. Several members of both the NHDHR's above- and below-ground teams visited the property to determine how to best preserve the vast property's history while moving forward with the Air Force's current mission.

Another day, another chance for the NHDHR team to lend a hand!

Why are cellar holes important? SCRAP knows

This summer, members of the Kingston Conservation Commission wanted to record historic archaeological resources within its town forests, so they called SCRAP to help.

SCRAP, the NHDHR's **State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program**, offers training on how to locate, document and create state-level recordation of existing cellar holes, historic mill sites and other features that can help tell the story of those who lived in a community in earlier times. Performing this work properly can be the difference between understanding those who came before us and losing their history entirely.



NHDHR's Tanya Krajcik (center) and crew take a break from mapping a cellar hole in Kingston.

Deputy State Archaeologist Tanya Krajcik worked with a crew of volunteers, showing them proper techniques. The maps and other documents the Conservation Commission creates will allow future historians to have a glimpse of life in Kingston over hundreds of years.

To learn more about the many ways SCRAP assists with community archaeology, visit nh.gov/nhdhr/SCRAP.htm.

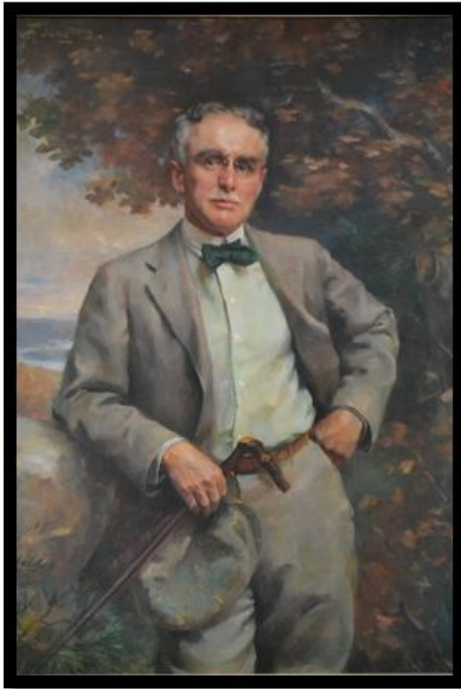
Professional Development opportunity from the NHDHR: Dec. 5

We all know that historic preservation is important -- and it's especially important that it be done correctly. We're here to help!

On December 5, NHDHR will host a **workshop for architectural history consultants**. Together we'll explore and evaluate new resource types and historic contexts, such as cultural landscapes, recreational resources, the Mid-Century Modern era, and more.

Keep your eye on your inbox for more details and how to register, or contact us

Nationally significant "Castle in the Clouds" named to National Register of Historic Places



The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is proud to announce that **Lucknow**, located in Moultonborough and best known as **Castle in the Clouds**, has been honored by the United States Secretary of the Interior with placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Its high level of integrity places it among other nationally significant mountaintop estates, including Grey Towers in Milford, Pennsylvania, Arden in Arden, New York and Flat Top Estate in Blowing Rock, North Carolina.

Lucknow was created by Thomas Plant, a self-made French-Canadian industrialist from Bath, Maine. He purchased several properties to create the more than 5,000-acre estate with 75-mile views across Lake Winnepesaukee and to the west.

The main house, a 1-1/2 story building with a clay tile roof, is an outstanding example of Arts and Crafts architecture. Its exterior incorporates hand-cut brown, gray and salmon stone veneer with hand-hewn white oak timbers secured by mortise and tenon joinery and exposed oak pegs.



Lucknow's floor plan has not changed since it was built. The first floor's main hall, library and dining room incorporate quarter-sawn oak paneled walls, built-in benches and Italian marble fireplace surrounds. Decorative features include carved woodwork, ornamental iron hardware, bronze lighting features and a plaster ceiling with relief wisteria flowers, leaves and

vines. Painted roundels and the second floor's seven skylights -- the largest is attributed to Tiffany Studios -- bring the surrounding landscape inside.

Lucknow's landscape and acreage also contribute to the property's national significance. Features include a two-mile entry drive with stone posts and retaining walls, gardens and lawns, a small lake, 40 miles of mountain roads and bridle paths, and terraces linked by stone steps.



Two conservation easements protect all but 67 of

Lucknow's 5,294 acres. Written agreements ensure that all of the property's historic buildings, landscape features and acreage will be protected, conserved and professionally managed in perpetuity.

In New Hampshire, listing to the National Register makes applicable property owners eligible for grants such as the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program or LCHIP (lchip.org) and the Conservation License Plate Program (nh.gov/nhdhr/grants/moose), among other benefits. Listing does not impose any property restrictions.

For more information about the National Register program in New Hampshire, visit nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/national_register.html.

Welcome, Brandee Loughlin!

The NHDHR is pleased to introduce you to our newest staff member, **Brandee Loughlin**, who is managing both our National Register of Historic Places and Historic Preservation Tax Incentive programs. She comes to us from the City of Laconia, where she worked as the assistant planner; prior to that, she was preservation planner for the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office, handling tax credit and Section 106 projects.



Brandee earned her Bachelors degree in American Studies from Franklin Pierce University and her Masters of Science in Historic Preservation from the University of Vermont. She and her husband live in Laconia with their dog, Duncan.

Toleration Act of 1819 a key element of recent additions to NH State Register of Historic Places

The New Hampshire Division of Historical



Resources is pleased to announce that the State Historical Resources Council has added ten properties -- including several that were built in response to the Toleration Act of 1819 -- to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places.

New Hampshire's Toleration Act of 1819 required the separation of church and state. Prior to its passage, town buildings were often shared spaces for both government and religious activities. In response to the new law, New Hampshire experienced a construction

boom for both types of buildings in the years that followed.

Dalton Town Hall was completed in 1845. A one-story timber-framed Greek Revival building that had a porch added in the early 1930s, it has also served the community as a high school, public library and meeting space for the Riverside Grange, the Dalton Historical Society, the Ladies Aid Society and the Friends of the Dalton Town Hall.

Built in 1848, **Mason Town Hall** is a well-preserved example of the Greek Revival style. The one and a half story building's symmetrical gable front is distinguished both by its full cornice return and flat pilasters flanking the center entry. Inside, the main hall has a wide stage with a simple proscenium arch. The site of high school graduation ceremonies from 1924 to 1969, it continues to be used for town and social functions.

Tamworth Town Hall served the needs of both the town's Congregationalists and government operations from the mid-1790s to the early 1850s, when church members built an independent building across the road. It retains its 1794 timber frame, original pulpit window and gallery columns, but a major renovation ca. 1852 added Greek Revival elements, including new trim, windows and a main entrance on the gable end.

An example of the many churches built as a result of the Toleration Act of 1819, **Stoddard Congregational Church** was completed in 1836. Its two-stage tower with corner pinnacles at the top of the belfry, large double-leaf doors with pointed arches that flank a large pointed-arch window, and triangular vent in the pediment are all details from the Gothic Revival style.

The following were also recently added to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places:

Built in 1894 in an era when New Hampshire school districts were consolidating buildings, **Belmont's Gale School** reflects both the Stick Style and Queen Anne styles that were popular in the late 19th century. It is named after banker Napoleon Bonaparte Gale, a native of Belmont whose donation helped complete the building project.

The **New Hampshire Supreme Court in Concord** is a symmetrical Georgian Colonial Revival building with a steel and concrete block frame and brick exterior. The interior features green and white marble floors and baseboards, wainscoting and a beamed ceiling in the lobby. The building's traditional design contrasts with the more contemporary styled state and federal buildings constructed in Concord in the 1960s.

Dedicated in 1867, the **First Christian Church in Freedom** was built for \$3,000, funds raised by selling church pews for \$50 each. Greek Revival in style, its square tower and belfry, topped by a cylindrical spire, hold the bell donated by Elias Towle, who originally gave it to the Calvin Baptist Society but later gave it to First Christian when he changed congregations -- a move that became a New Hampshire Supreme Court case.

One of a number of buildings associated with the arrival of the railroad in Lee in 1874, **South Lee Freight Depot** is one of the few that remain. While some alterations have been made to it, it still clearly represents a freight depot from its era and is significant as one of the early historic preservation efforts in Lee.

Stratton Free Library in Swanzey was both funded and designed by George William Stratton, a musical instrument salesman, musician and composer who wrote operas and operettas. The 1885 brick Romanesque Revival building, with decorative brickwork, arched portico entryway, round-arch window and door openings, was designed to be both a library and gallery, services it continues to provide today.

Constructed as the town's first town hall, **Wentworth Town Hall** has been used for town meetings, elementary school graduations, town plays, roller skating gatherings and other community events since it was built in 1899. The two and a half story wood frame building's exterior combines clapboards and decorative wood shingles, a look borrowed from the Queen Anne style.

Anyone wishing to nominate a property to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places must research the history of the nominated property and document it fully on an individual inventory form from the NHDHR. Having a property listed in the State Register offers a number of benefits but does not impose restrictions on property owners. Learn more about the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places at nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/state_register.html or by contacting Megan Rupnik, megan.rupnik@dncr.nh.gov, 271-6435.

Two new NH Historic Highway Markers honor very different career choices

New Hampshire added two new **Historical Highway Markers** to our highways and byways, offering travelers a chance to take a quick break on their journeys and learn a bit more about our great state.

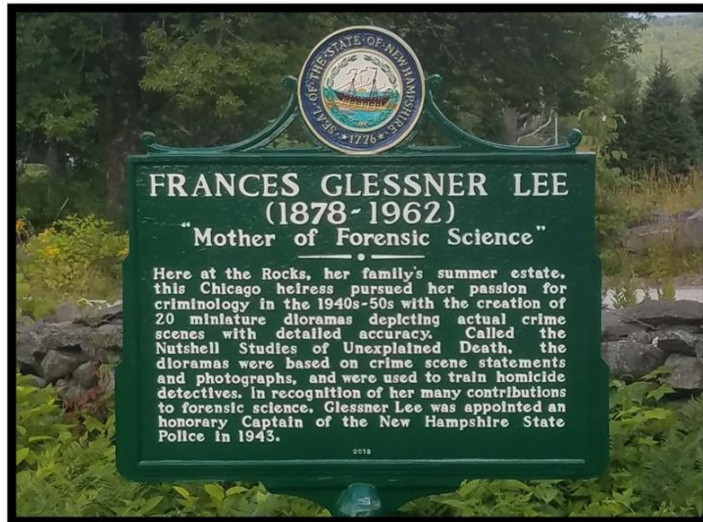
In Danville, the **Webster Stagecoach Stop and Store** reads:

"This small building, built ca. 1820, served as a stopover for a stagecoach route that passed through Danville. Passengers could buy refreshments while the horses rested and carriages were repaired. Early customer accounts remain intact, written



on interior walls. Nathaniel Webster, third cousin to Daniel Webster and the town's first U.S. postmaster, ran the post office from this building. The stagecoach stop's history illustrates the importance of 19th century stagecoach culture, not only for travel but also for commerce and mail delivery."

The building was originally located on the other side of what is now Route 111A. It was moved and rehabilitated with the help grants from LCHIP and from the NH Division of Historical Resources' Moose Plate grant program. The marker was proposed by the Danville Heritage Commission and was unveiled at the town's recent Old Home Days celebration.



Up in Bethlehem, a very different marker pays tribute to **Frances Glessner Lee (1878-1962), the "Mother of Forensic Science."**

"Here at the Rocks, her family's summer estate, this Chicago heiress pursued her passion for criminology in the 1940s-50s with the creation of 20 miniature dioramas depicting actual crime scenes with detailed accuracy. Called the Nutshell Studies of Unexplained

Death, the dioramas were based on crime scene statements and photographs, and were used to train homicide detectives. In recognition of her many contributions to forensic science, Glessner Lee was appointed an honorary Captain of the New Hampshire State Police in 1943."

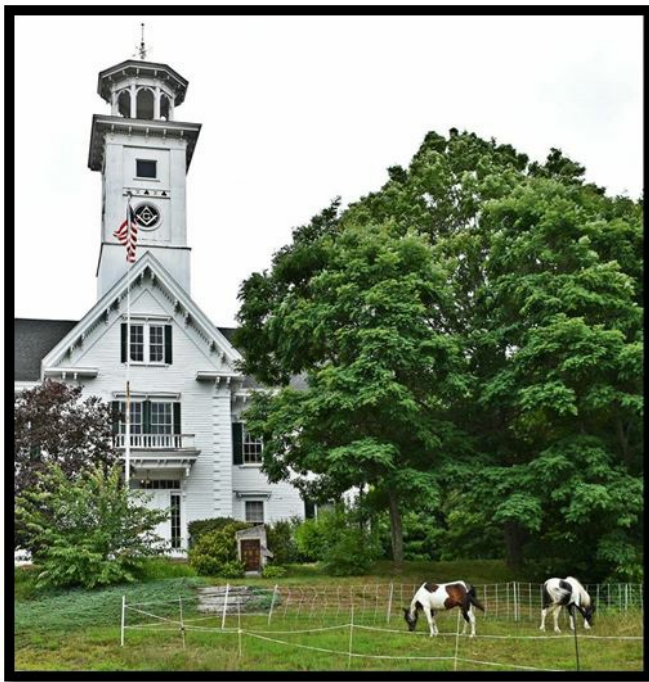
Glessner Lee reportedly was the model for the character Jessica Fletcher on the television show "Murder She Wrote." Her dioramas are still used for training by the Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Do you have a topic that you think would make a great marker? You can learn more about the process at nh.gov/nhdhr/markers/index.html.

"My New Hampshire" reaches a milestone

"My New Hampshire," the photosharing site started by the NHDHR that invites everyone to post their favorite pictures of Granite State historic places, reached an important milestone this summer when site #200 was added to the map.

And what a beauty it is! Built in the 1850s for the New England Masonic Charitable Institute and as the temple and meeting



What a beautiful image - horses and everything!

away: <https://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/publications/mynewhampshire.htm>.

UPDATE: Certified Local Government program

The NHDHR's **Certified Local Government (CLG) program** supports communities with their preservation efforts by offering ongoing technical assistance with historic preservation projects, addressing preservation issues and opportunities, and resolving concerns relating to federally assisted activities that may affect historic properties. CLGs are also eligible to apply for matching grants from the state's annual Historic Preservation Fund allocation to fund local preservation projects.

Each CLG must fulfill certain requirements indicating its commitment to local preservation, including establishing a historic preservation review commission. Once certified, the entire municipality is designated as a Certified Local Government. We're so pleased to be able to share some updates from the program:

Lebanon has celebrated its fifth year as a CLG and has used CLG funding for neighborhood character surveys which then revealed the importance of undertaking [a survey of the city's historic mill sites](#).

Rochester utilized CLG funds to travel to the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, where they were able to inspire others by sharing the success of their City Hall Annex restoration project.



(left-right): Members of the Lebanon Heritage Commission pose in front of the Dana House; NHDHR staff help celebrate Rochester being selected to attend a national historic preservation conference.

And this summer, **Rye** became New Hampshire's 24th CLG. With so many interesting things happening in that part of the state, it will be exciting to see what projects this Seacoast's community heritage commission focuses on.

To learn more about the NHDHR's Certified Local Government program, visit https://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/cert_local_govt.html.

Stay involved in historic preservation

Between issues of *The Old Stone Wall*, you can remain active in New Hampshire's preservation community. Good places to start are your local community's historic and preservation organizations, the [NH History Network](#) and the [NH Preservation Alliance website](#).

The lead photo for this edition of The Old Stone Wall was taken at Contoocook Village Cemetery and was submitted to [My New Hampshire](#).



Working together to preserve and celebrate New Hampshire's irreplaceable historic resources through education, stewardship and protection.

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